

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
DOEE-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 PM-05 H-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2196
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 10990

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJECT: CCD: SOVIET PROPOSED APPROACH TO CONSULTATIONS
- ON MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

REFS: A)STATE 173654, B)GENEVA 10768, C)STATE 178100

1. DURING CO-CHAIRMEN'S MEETING, JULY 17, SOVIET
AMBASSADOR LIKHATCHEV STATED THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO
CONTACT U.S. AMBASSADOR FISHER IN GENEVA SO AS TO "GET
DOWN TO WORK" ON SELECTION OF THE FIVE (SIC) NEW MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT (CCD).

2. LIKHATCHEV PRESENTED THE SOVIET POSITION THAT CONSUL-
TATIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN GENEVA AND STRESSED
THAT "PRELIMINARY WORK" ON THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE CON-
DUCTED BY THE CCD. THE SOVIET PROPOSED APPROACH TO SELEC-
TION OF NEW MEMBERS PROCEEDS AS FOLLOWS:

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A. CONSULTATIONS WOULD FIRST BE HELD BETWEEN THE
CCD CO-CHAIRMEN, THE US AND THE USSR, IN GENEVA;

B. FOLLOWING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CO-CHAIRMEN ON
A SINGLE LIST OF CANDIDATES, CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE HELD
WITH UK CCD AMBASSADOR ASHE AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE FRENCH

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN IN GENEVA, SINCE THE UK AND FRANCE WERE ALSO CO-SPONSORS OF THE MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATING BODY SEGMENT OF THE MACHINERY SECTION OF THE SSOD FINAL DOCUMENT;

C. ONCE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AMONG THE FOUR CO-SPONSORS, CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE OTHER SELECT MEMBERS OF THE CCD;

D. ONCE AGREEMENT ON A SINGLE LIST OF CANDIDATES HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN GENEVA, CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE HELD WITH 32ND GA PRESIDENT MOJSOV IN GENEVA, IF POSSIBLE, BUT IN NO CASE LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 19, 1978, WHEN MOJSOV'S TERM AS PRESIDENT IS OVER. (LIKHACHEV STATED THAT SOVIET DEL HAD INFORMATION THAT MOJSOV WOULD BE IN GENEVA IN AUGUST TO ATTEND THE UN CONFERENCE ON RACISM.)

E. THE AGREED LIST OF NEW MEMBERS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE CCD'S FINAL REPORT TO THE 33RD UNGA.

3. U.S. AMBASSADOR FISHER EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. APPROACH TO CONSULTATIONS DIFFERED FROM THAT PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR LIKHACHEV. HE POINTED OUT AT THE START THAT THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS, AS AGREED BY CONSENSUS AT THE SSOD, WAS "FIVE TO EIGHT" AND NOT "FIVE" AS ASSUMED BY LIKHACHEV. FISHER THEN PRESENTED THE U.S. POSITION THAT CONSULTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONDUCTED IN CAPITALS, NOT GENEVA, SO AS TO AVOID GIVING THE APPEARANCE THAT THE CCD, OR ITS CO-CHAIRMAN, IS CHOOSING THE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE CD. HE ADDED THAT WHILE WE RECOGNIZED THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FOUR CO-SPONSORS IN THIS CONNECTION, NO SPECIAL ROLE FOR THE CCD CO-CHAIRMAN IN RESOLVING THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN INCLUDED OR IMPLIED IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT. IN FACT, DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK LED TO THE OPPOSITE CONCLUSION. FURTHERMORE, FISHER POINTED OUT, THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD UPSET THE DELICATE BALANCE WHICH HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE TO REACH CONSENSUS ON MACHINERY AT SSOD.

4. LIKHACHEV AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO AVOID UPSETTING THE BALANCE BUT EXPLAINED THAT THE SOVIETS VIEWED THEIR PROPOSAL AS "THE PRACTICAL APPROACH TO A PRACTICAL QUESTION." HE THOUGHT FISHER MIGHT RECEIVE DIFFERENT INSTRUCTIONS AFTER REPORTING THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. FISHER SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON BUT WOULD NOT AGREE TO REQUEST WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF CHANGING HIS CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS MATTER.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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